GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
HYBRID COTTON SEEDS
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies selling BT Cotton Seeds in the country;

(b) whether private companies are selling BT-2 Hybrid Cotton Seeds at Rs.1000 per packet of 450 gms despite the directions of the court to make available the seeds at Rs.750 per packet in all the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): Bt. Cotton Seeds are produced and marketed in India by 25 private seed companies, listed in the Annexure. Prior to interim order of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission dated 11th May, 2006 on a complaint filed by Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Pvt. Ltd. and its sub-licensee seed companies were selling Bt. cotton seeds at prices ranging between Rs.1600/- to Rs.1800/- per packet of 450 grams, which included the trait value. MRTP Commission directed these companies not to charge trait value of Rs.900/- for a packet of 450 grams of Bt. Cotton Seeds and to fix the reasonable trait value. Subsequent to the said interim order and discussions between State Governments and seed companies, Bt. Cotton Seeds {Bollgard and Bollgard II (commonly referred to as BG-II} are being sold at prices ranging from Rs.750/- to Rs.925/- per 450 grams.